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BUCKLEY SIGNED FOR TV DEBATES

To Face Different Opponent
Each Week on Channel 9

By VAL ADAMS

William F. Buckley Jr., the Conservative party's mayoralty candidate last year, has signed a television contract to debate a different opponent each week on domestic and international issues. The series of one-hour programs will be syndicated to stations by R.K.O. General Productions.

"Firing Line With William Buckley" will be presented here by WOR-TV from 10 to 11 P.M. Saturdays, beginning April 9. It was reported that Theodore C. Sorensen, who was special counsel and speech writer for President Kennedy, is considering an invitation to debate Mr. Buckley on the first program.

The series was announced yesterday by Robert J. Leder, executive vice president of R.K.O. General Broadcasting, which owns the production company. He said Mr. Buckley's opponents would be of "national stature." The last 20 minutes of each program will be turned over to questions from the studio audience.

David Yarnell, a program executive of R.K.O. General Broadcasting, said Mr. Sorenson had given a "tentative yes" to appearing on the first program. Others who have been invited for subsequent debates, Mr. Yarnell said, include Steve Allen, Jackie Robinson and Senator John O. Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island.

"Each guest on the program will be a liberal or one opposing Mr. Buckley's viewpoints," Mr. Yarnell said. "We also want a balance in the studio audience, too. We will make every effort to keep the audience from being packd in favor of one or the other."

R.K.O. General Broadcasting does not yet know how many stations will carry the program. It has been scheduled by KHJ-TV in Los Angeles.

Mr. Buckley, nationally known for his conservative views, is editor of National Review, a magazine. He also writes a syndicated newspaper column, "On the Right."

Mr. Yarnell declined to say how much Mr. Buckley would be paid. Mr. Buckley could not be reached for comment. At his Manhattan apartment, it was said he was in Switzerland. The first program will be taped April 4 at WOR-TV.

Precs Buckley Wm. F. Jr
Soc 4-01-4 RKO General Prod.
Soc 4-01-3 WOR - Firing Line
w th Wm. Buckley